

OUR INDUSTRIES AND RESOURCES.

I.

The completion of transcontinental railroads to this region opens the question of its power to support them, and this leads to the deeper question whether this section can sustain itself in competition with the thriving industries of the East and of the vast interior. The problem cannot be solved by the transfer of raw materials across the continent to be returned in finished goods. This policy proves suicidal to every country which merely supplies raw materials for the manufactories of England and New England. When the South raised cotton chiefly and bought food and clothing it became poor. Its lands were worn out. Its planters were compelled to find new fields west of the Mississippi. India, Africa, South America and Russia make little progress—barely exist—while shipping their coarse natural productions to the marts of Great Britain and the United States, to receive back cargoes of manufactured goods.

When the Central Pacific Railroad was completed to San Francisco, and the last spike driven in Utah connecting it with the Union Pacific Railroad and all Eastern lines, it was seen that these roads would flood California with merchandise and drain off all its gold and silver, leaving the State full of pauper laborers. To avert this calamity William C. Ralston, among other wealthy citizens, rallied all whom he could enlist to establish and extend manufactories, start new industries and develop resources hitherto untouched. Bold in adventure, as he was over-sanguine of success, he sunk his own fortune, involved his friends and sacrificed himself. But the many productive industries of that State have turned the tide of prosperity in its favor. This experience is a valuable testimony to our region, which borders the same vast ocean and has more natural advantages. Gentlemen have come among us to inquire what industries are in progress here, and what can be profitably increased and what new ones wisely commenced.

The object of this series of articles is to answer such inquiries as far as possible, and to cite some specially favorable conditions.

The tropics and the frigid zones have failed to develop either varied or important industries. Intense heat or cold is unsuitable. But the climate of Western Europe has proved eminently propitious. The Atlantic Ocean tempers its summers and winters. The Pacific, on a broader scale, modifies ours. Both shores are made alike salubrious by oceanic and aerial currents. Work can be done here in or out of doors every month of the year with but occasional exceptions. Within a hundred miles of the coast the rivers seldom freeze over. Plowing and wheat sowing continue far into the winter and begin early in spring. The logging camps form their booms in rivers and bays at all seasons, and lumber mills stop only for repairs and the Sabbath. The laborer breathes mild yet invigorating air. He has abundant food and continues his work through the year with increased vitality. These conditions impart vigor to all animal life, and

under them thrives a luxuriant vegetation which supplies unfailling resources for many important industries.

The rich and abundant food supply of a country is essential to its most numerous and valuable industries. We have the advantage of soil and climate, prolific in cereal, vegetable and fruit power, often and widely tested and assured by unfailling harvests, with areas sufficient for tenfold our present population. Added to that from the land is the fish food from rivers, bays and ocean, abundant and within the means of the poorest. Demand will create supply for multitudes larger than we may expect to see. The laborer on this Northwest Coast has always been well fed. It is a sign that he need never suffer in this respect or be stinted like his fellow workman in Western Europe, unless he wastes and destroys himself by evil habits.

Our resources have been found more and more numerous and valuable in the qualities required for industrial pursuits. Grander forests, more extensive coal, iron and lime beds, and new mines of gold, silver and copper, will invite capital and labor during the centuries to come. Millions of acres wait for the plow. Herds and flocks will have their pastures on the mountains. The wilderness can be made a garden.

I desire to speak of a few of our leading industries in detail, to show what they have become and to point out their needs and possibilities for the future, and will begin with one of the most important.

SALMON FISHERIES.

Every stream and bay on the coast of Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska is thronged at certain seasons of year with that great food fish, the salmon, and on many of them are establishments, employing thousands of hands in the aggregate, engaged in canning, salting and drying these and other food fishes for market. This industry has grown in twenty years to large proportions. The success of one salmon cannery on the Columbia River, with a few nets and an output of a few hundred cases, has caused the erection of more than fifty on this and other streams, bays and sounds, requiring over 500 miles of nets, from 18 to 24 feet deep. The catch of over 2,000,000 fish, as estimated, furnished last year an output of not less than 800,000 cases, 634,000 cases being from the Columbia River alone. This product, at \$4.50 per case, gives a value of \$3,600,000, one-half of which, at least (\$1,800,000), is paid for labor.

Failure of this industry is not to be feared or expected except by the destruction of salmon. The rivers of New England, formerly stocked with them, now have none, unless recently replenished. No doubt the Columbia can also be deprived of them, yet a few hatcheries on its upper streams would supply it permanently. These have been successful in the Sacramento. Much more they can be in this grander stream.

This industry, at first an experiment, continues and grows. Over-supply, with some loss to the producer, has made it in some seasons a little uncertain. But its trade marks are known and new home markets have been opened, while foreign ones have been held firmly. The